

TOWN OF WILTON
SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

Date: February 15, 2016
Time: 6:30 P.M.
Place: Town Office
Present: Chairman Richard E. Swanson, Selectmen William F. Condra and Kermit R. Williams.
Recording Secretary Pamela Atwood.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M. by Chairman Swanson.

Public Works Director Steve Elliott was first on the agenda. He discussed snow plowing at both schools (FRES and the Co-op). He has always charged WLC a minimal fee to plow and treat their road and parking lot but now that he has two schools to maintain he thinks it is time to determine his actual cost and come up with a contract amount to charge for both schools. Chairman Swanson asked if he had the amounts together tonight. Steve explained his rates to the Selectmen. Steve realizes that he cannot implement this for 2016 but he is preparing for next year. Dawn Tuomala spoke about the school's budget. She says they have a budget line item for this. Chairman Swanson asked for further comments. He suggested that the schools may want to go out to bid for plowing, but Steve's rates are inexpensive prices.

Next Steve talking about the concept of using stickers for the Recycling Center. Greenville thinking about pulling out of the center. Dawn and Steve visited New Boston and will visit other recycling centers. Steve stated that we are limited by the way our center is set up. New Boston uses stickers which are free but they must show a valid registration from a participating town. He said, at the Wilton Recycling Center, it is difficult for them to tell who is coming from one of our five towns; with the use of stickers only towns paying for the service will get the service. Selectman Williams asked who will check stickers. A discussion followed regarding how to implement the use of stickers. Steve asked the Board if he should pursue the idea of using stickers. Selectman Condra stated that he likes the idea. There is an initial investment, or you could charge for them which gives an additional revenue. Selectman Williams would like to wait for Steve's report of the number of households that use the center. Dawn Tuomala reported the per capita costs for New Boston, Amherst and Wilton and stated that our costs are less than both. Chairman Swanson thinks Steve should come back at a future meeting with a proposal. Steve talked about the use of scales which would pick up some revenue from trailers. He said that scales would pay for themselves in two years. The Board thanked Steve.

Public Comment:

Jessie Salisbury told how the Budget Committee in Lyndeborough had discussed the idea of using stickers.

Chairman Swanson spoke about his discussion with Andre Garron, of UNH regarding the Business Retention and Expansion project. Mr. Garron would like to meet with the Board in March and discuss how to construct a leadership team of 3-5 people to move ahead with the study. We have several people interested. Selectman Williams told how he spoke with Jennifer Beck today who has an interest in helping with the Economic Committee. Selectman Williams thinks that Andre should talk to all businesses and not just a sampling of them. Chairman Swanson said Andre will share a leadership manual with the Selectmen. They will meet on March 14th at 6:30 P.M.

Budget Committee member Dawn Tuomala attended the meeting for the Selectmen to vote on Warrant Article recommendations. Dawn explained the packet. The Warrant Articles and Budget must be posted by Thursday. The Budget Committee meets tomorrow night.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for the purpose of funding a Town Revaluation pursuant to RSA 35:1 and to authorize the withdrawal of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) from the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2018 whichever is sooner.

B motion to recommend. K seconds. All in favor.

Motion: Selectman Condra moves to recommend this article. Selectman Williams seconded the motion which was followed by a unanimous vote. Motion carries.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the purpose of hiring a Town Administrator using Grade 13 on the Town Employee salary scale. Monies are to come from taxation or to take any other action relating thereto.

After much conversation about the presentation of this Warrant Article and how it is written and perceived a vote was taken on recommending this article: Swanson, aye; Williams, aye; Condra, nay. Motion carries 2 to 1.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty two thousand dollars (\$152,000) for upgrading and replacement of the heating and ventilation systems in the Wilton Town Hall. This article is contingent upon receiving a grant for twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) and the balance of one hundred twenty seven thousand dollars (\$127,000) is to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2018 whichever is sooner.

Chairman Swanson handed out information that contained additional wording for the Warrant Article. Dawn said that she has issues with changing the Warrant Article at this late date; DRA has already approved it with one change that was made. The budget has been approved and Dawn is not sure if DRA will look at it again.

Motion: Selectman Williams moves to amend the wording of the Warrant Article at Town Meeting. Discussion: He feels there is not enough time to change the wording. Dawn stated she will try but she can't promise anything. It does affect the amount, all of which has already been approved by DRA. No second; motion dies.

Selectman Williams suggested that the Board approve the article as written and amend it at Town Meeting. Chairman Swanson said he was disappointed; he thinks the wording makes it a better Warrant Article. Dawn will try. Selectman Williams stated that Dawn has to get approval for any changes she makes. Chairman Swanson appreciates her help.

Motion: Selectman Williams moves that, contingent upon DRA approval, he votes to recommend the Warrant Article as proposed by Chairman Swanson. Chairman Swanson seconded the motion. Selectman Condra stated that the Fire Department is not supporting this type of heating system without more information. Alison Meltzer is going to share the plans with the Fire Department. This system is no more dangerous than oil for risk of a fire. Chairman Swanson said that it is *state of the art*. The vote was unanimous. Selectman Williams had to leave for a short time but stated that he is in favor of the rest of the Warrant Articles until the last one.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty seven thousand dollars (\$27,000) for the design plans, bid documents and construction inspections for renovation of the old police station area of the Wilton Town Hall. Monies to come from general taxation or to take any other action relating thereto. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2018 whichever is sooner.

Motion: Selectman Condra moves to recommend the Warrant Article. Chairman Swanson seconded the motion, followed by a unanimous vote. Motion carries.

Chairman Swanson passed around revised wording for the next article.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize fifty percent (50%) of the Land Use Change tax up to a maximum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) per year to be placed in the Conservation Fund per RSA 79-A:25, II.

Dawn Tuomala spoke about the time she has spent on this article and the changes that have been made with Attorney Little's approval. She had to research when the Conservation Commission was established. She gave additional bits of history about the Commission. Selectman Williams returned. Dawn stated that the Trustees of the Trust Funds do not have any funds for the Conservation Commission. Chairman Swanson recalls conversations last year about how the money can be spent. The Conservation Commission makes their land acquisition recommendations to the Select Board for approval. Dawn agreed. She said the wording in this article is cleaner and neater and DRA is happy with the way it is written. Selectman Williams supports the article because he feels the voters ought to have the option to vote on them.

Motion: Chairman Swanson moves to recommend approval of this Warrant Article the way Dawn Tuomala has written it. Selectman Williams seconds. Selectman Condra spoke on the issue. He hopes it gets defeated again this year. It is his opinion that land in Current Use is giving a tax break to the current owner; the taxes are deferred. When the property comes out of Current Use the owner must then pay a fee, therefore, it is his opinion that all of the money collected should go into the General Fund. For no other department in Town do we guarantee that a specified amount of money will be put in their fund. He supports funding the way it is currently done. He is opposed to the Board recommending this article. He is not opposed to letting the voters decide. Selectman Williams countered that this is a mechanism put in place by the State of NH with the idea that it is found money. A number of towns have implemented it because it is looked at as found money. It preserves land and there is some connection between Current Use and conserved land. At last year's Town Meeting we wanted to put together a map that shows conservation land including land that is in Current Use. This year that map will be available. It shows that about 70% of the acreage of Wilton is conserved. People should be aware of this. Dan Donovan stated that about 40% is undevelopable because of slope and wetland, etc. Therefore, it's not fair to say that everything in Current Use can be pulled out and taxed because a large part of it is undevelopable. Chairman Swanson said it is a positive step with this map and that he would like to see a map of what is undevelopable. More discussion followed. Selectman Condra said that he can accept enabling language from the State but we are not bound to use it. He rejects the idea that this is found money; we've determined the land is taxed at a lower rate. Selectman Williams disagrees explaining that the Assessor determines a value in Current Use. The concept of Current Use is that it is valued for the use the owner applied for. It is an incorrect concept that it's deferred taxes per the people who developed Current Use. Selectman Condra moves the question. After a few more comments from the audience a vote was taken. Chairman Swanson, aye; Selectman Williams, aye; Selectman Condra, nay. Motion carries 2 to 1.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$107,500) for the purchase of a backhoe for the Highway Department. Monies to come from general taxation or to take any other action relating thereto.

Motion: Selectman Williams moves to recommend this article. Selectman Condra seconded the motion which was followed by a unanimous vote in favor. Motion carries.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the Safe Routes to School Study. This article is contingent upon the receipt of a grant for fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) or to take any other action relating thereto.

Selectman Williams told that we have already been approved for this grant so he recommends removing this Warrant Article because we have been given the Grant; we have the authority.

Motion: Selectman Williams moves to delete this article from the list. Selectman Condra seconded the motion followed by a unanimous vote in favor. Motion carries.

To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of five hundred fifteen thousand four hundred fifty dollars (\$515,450) for the construction of King Brook Road Bridge (#074/060) as part of the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation State Aid Bridge Program. The State of New Hampshire Bridge Aid Program shall reimburse four hundred twelve thousand three hundred sixty dollars (\$412,360) and to authorize the withdrawal of seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) from the Bridge Repair Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of thirty three thousand ninety dollars (\$33,090) is to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2020 whichever is sooner.

Dawn explained the changes saying this is how DRA wants it.

Motion: Selectman Condra moves to recommend the article. Selectman Williams seconded the motion but stated that he is confused with the wording. A unanimous vote in favor followed. Motion carries.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty seven thousand forty three dollars (\$47,043) for the purchase of a new police SUV. Costs to include purchase, equipping and lettering of the car and to authorize the withdrawal of seventeen thousand dollars (\$17,000) from the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The balance of thirty thousand forty three dollars (\$30,043) is to come from general taxation, or to take any other action relating thereto.

Motion: Chairman Swanson moves to recommend this article and the next two as written. Selectman Williams seconded the motion. A vote with all in favor followed. Motion carries.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to be added to the Fire Department Vehicle Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The monies to come from general taxation or to take any other action relating thereto.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. The monies to come from general taxation or to take any other action relating thereto.

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Recycling Center Capital Reserve Fund established in the year 1982. Said funds shall be transferred into the general fund. Fund balance in the Recycling Center Capital Reserve Fund as of 12/31/2015 was forty thousand forty seven dollars and sixty three cents (\$40,047.63). Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipalities' general fund or to take any other action relating thereto.

Dawn explained this article and the next one.

Motion: Chairman Swanson moves to recommend this article and the next one. Selectman Williams seconded the motion followed by a unanimous vote with all in favor. Motion carries.

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Revolving Fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of the Recycling Center. All revenues received for the Recycling Center from fees, charges, or other income derived from the activities or services supported by the fund will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town's general fund balance. Funds may be used for facilitating, designing, maintaining and/or encouraging recycling as defined in RSA 149-M:4. And, further to raise and appropriate the sum of forty thousand forty eight dollars (\$40,048) to be added to the Recycling Center revolving fund from the unassigned fund balance. The town treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. (Majority vote required).

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four million, eight hundred eighty three thousand four hundred sixty three dollars (\$4,883,463) for the general municipal operation for the year 2016 or to take any other action relating thereto. Said sum does not include any of the special or individual articles addressed.

Cary Hughes spoke to someone at DRA who felt you could more easily amend the article if it were at the end of the list. Rick likes it at the end as has been done in the past. Kermit thinks people should stay till the end.

To see if the town will vote to establish a Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust fund pursuant to RSA 31:19-a, to be funded by the sale of cemetery lots pursuant to RSA 289:2-a, for the maintenance of cemeteries. (This fund shall separate from the existing Cemetery Trust Fund used for the maintenance of perpetual trust cemetery lots.)

Motion: Selectman Condra moves to recommend the article as written. Selectman Williams seconded the motion. He then spoke about RSA 31:19-a explaining how it has been done historically and how this changes it and allowing us a way to not tie money perpetually in perpetual care. He highly recommends it. A unanimous vote in favor followed. Motion carries.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to adopt an exemption under RSA 72:27-a from the assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property which is equipped with a solar energy system as defined in RSA 72:61. The exemption will be equal to the increased assessment for the solar energy system in that building. A "solar energy system" means a system which utilizes solar energy to heat or cool the interior of a building or to heat water for use in a building in which includes one or more collectors and a storage container. "Solar energy system" also means a system which provides electricity for a building by the use of photovoltaic panels. The exemption will go into effect in the tax year beginning April 1, 2016. Property that includes a solar energy system at the time the exemption goes into effect will be eligible for an exemption in an amount equal to any increased incremental assessed value of the entire property attributable to the qualifying equipment.

Chairman Swanson noted that the Selectmen already voted to recommend during a Selectmen's meeting but this is the Warrant Article for it.

Motion: Chairman Swanson moves to recommend this Warrant Article. Selectman Condra seconded the motion followed by a vote with all in favor. Motion carries. Further discussion: Selectman Williams thinks RSA 72:62 should be referenced. Rick used the recommended language to write this warrant Article. Kermit

wants it worded correctly, RSA 72:61 defines solar energy system, RSA 72:62 is the exemption. Dawn will write up the new Warrant Article with the changes.

Motion: Chairman Swanson moves to recommend the article with revisions as proposed by Selectman Williams. Selectman Condra seconded the motion. A unanimous vote followed. Motion carries.

To see if the Town shall accept the provisions of RSA 31:95-b providing that any town at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the selectmen to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the town meeting, unanticipated money from a state, federal or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year.

Dawn stated that this was already passed in 1993 and again in 1995. Selectman Williams referenced RSA 72:61.

Motion: Selectman Williams moves to strike this article. Selectman Condra seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Motion carries.

To see if the Town will urge that the next President and Congress fight big money politics and restore government of, by, and for the people by championing the We the People agenda:

- 1. Ban Super PACs and overturn Citizens United*
- 2. Expose secret donors and require full transparency*
- 3. Ban bribes from big-money lobbyists and government contractors*
- 4. Establish small-donor, citizen-funded elections*
- 5. End gerrymandering and modernize voter registration*
- 6. Close loopholes and enforce campaign finance laws*

(By Petition)

Motion: Selectman Condra moves to strike this Warrant Article recommendation by the Board of Selectmen. Kermit seconded the motion. Chairman Swanson spoke. He went to a talk and is convinced that the Board should recommend approving this article. In the spirit of Granny D, Rick moves to recommend article. Selectman Williams spoke about the Rebellion B group. He said it is a good way for people to express their opinion but it means nothing. Kermit seconds striking the recommendation to allow the Town to discuss and vote on it. Chairman Swanson asked for an explanation of Bill's motion. Bill said the article is too ambiguous; it uses catch phrases. There is no need to carry it into town government. He doesn't think Wilton needs to take a position.

Motion: Selectman Condra moves to take no action/make no recommendation on this article. Vote: Selectman Williams, aye; Selectman Condra, aye; Chairman Swanson, nay. Motion carries 2 to 1.

To see if the Town of Wilton, NH will vote to strengthen its opposition to the installation of a natural gas pipeline through Southern New Hampshire, as part of the Northeast Energy Direct project by Tennessee Gas company LLC, a Kinder Morgan Company, by joining the New Hampshire Municipal Pipeline Coalition for the following reasons:

The Northeast Energy Direct project threatens a healthy living atmosphere for both Wilton residents and local wildlife, and the environmental integrity of local farms, both present and future;

As proposed, the project will construct a 30 inch diameter high pressure fracked gas pipeline a few hundred feet from our town's borders and a 41,000 hp compressor station about a mile from Wilton in the town of New Ipswich;

The project violates the Wilton Master Plan goal to "preserve, protect, and utilize the natural resources and unique natural features of the Town of Wilton including its agricultural lands, water resources, wildlife, forests, rivers, wetlands, scenic vistas, clean air, open space, and historic character." (Wilton Master Plan I-3). Once compromised or destroyed, these town resources and natural features are

irreplaceable;

The release of contaminants from drilling and fracking, and the destructive effects of blasting will jeopardize our aquifers, drinking water and wetlands;

As all of Wilton is within 8 miles downwind of New Ipswich compressor station, the known emissions of toxins related to normal compressor station functions as well as the scheduled and unscheduled compressor station “blow-downs” will impact the health of town residents:

This project will negatively impact town property values;

The town opposes the use of eminent domain for takings of property or easements for private commercial gain; and

The town wishes to stand in solidarity with neighboring towns, both within and beyond the Monadnock region, which will be endangered directly or indirectly by the proposed project.

(By Petition)

Dawn went on to discuss the budget line item changes. She thanked all the Department Heads who reduced their budgets. There was additional discussion about the 10% allowance over budget.

Joe Torre was next on the agenda as the MACC Base representative. He explained that in December they voted to contract with the town of Lyndeborough for dispatch service and alarm monitoring. This went into effect on January 1st and it was a smooth transition. They have also been approached by the town of New Ipswich for services. The Director will do a study on this prospect. There is also conversation with the town of New Boston for dispatch services. They talked about how MACC Base determines fees which is by population which is a clear cut method. Selectman Williams asked about the voting mechanism. He doesn't want to subsidize other towns. Joe said that the goal is to improve service to all towns and invest in current infrastructure.

Motion: Selectman Condra moves to support Joe Torre's “no” vote on the decision regarding New Boston. Selectman Williams seconded the motion. After further discussion Selectman Condra moved the question. A unanimous vote followed. Motion carries.

The Board had a discussion about the upcoming Citizen of the Year presentation.

Chairman Swanson made a motion to go into a nonpublic session at 9:30 P.M. per RSA 91-A:3,II(c) seconded by Selectman Williams followed by a unanimous vote.

The regular meeting was called to order at 9:38 P.M. A motion to seal the minutes was made and seconded, followed by a roll call vote: Swanson, aye; Williams, aye; Condra aye.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 P.M. by Selectman Condra, seconded by Selectman Williams, followed by a vote with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted;

Pamela L. Atwood,

Recording Secretary

Richard E. Swanson, Chairman

Kermit R. Williams

William F. Condra

Date Signed